

Amendments to the claims:

1. (currently amended): Apparatus for determining authenticity of a digital representation of an object, the digital representation including embedded first authentication information and the apparatus comprising:

a storage system in which stored second authentication information is associated with stored reference codes; and

a processor which receives the digital representation and a reference code associated therewith, the processor including:

an authentication information reader; and

the processor: i) employing the reference code to retrieve the second authentication information associated therewith from the storage system, ii) employing the authentication information reader to recover ~~read~~ the embedded first authentication information, and iii) employing recovered ~~the read~~ first authentication information and the second authentication information to determine authenticity of the digital representation.

2. (original): The apparatus set forth in claim 1 wherein:  
the reference code is included in the digital representation.

3. (original): The apparatus set forth in claim 1 wherein:  
a key is stored in the storage system and associated with the reference code; and  
the processor further employs the reference code to retrieve the key; and  
the authentication information reader uses the key to read the first authentication information.

4. (currently amended): The apparatus set forth in claim 1 wherein:  
the second authentication information is based on semantic information contained in the digital representation; and  
the authentication information reader includes a semantic information reader and an authentication information maker;

~~the semantic information reader reading the semantic information from the digital representation and the authentication information maker producing the first authentication information from the read semantic information.~~

5. (original): The apparatus set forth in claim 1 wherein:  
the processor is attached to a network, receives the digital representation from a source thereof via the network, and provides an indication of the authenticity of the digital representation to the source.

6. (original): The apparatus set forth in claim 5 wherein:  
the source makes the digital representation from an analog form.

7. (original): The apparatus set forth in claim 6 wherein:  
the source associates the reference code with the digital representation.

8. (original): The apparatus set forth in claim 7 wherein:  
the source receives the reference code from a user of the source.

9. (currently amended): The apparatus set forth in claim 6 wherein:  
the analog form includes a security pattern;  
the source reads the security pattern and associates the ~~read~~ security pattern with the digital representation; and  
the authentication information reader further processes the embedded first authentication information with the associated ~~read~~ security pattern to produce the ~~read~~ first authentication information.

10. (original): The apparatus set forth in claim 5 wherein:  
there is a plurality of the apparatuses in the network; and  
a given one of the apparatuses uses the reference code to route the received digital representation and the reference code to another one of the apparatuses.

11. (original): The apparatus set forth in claim 6 wherein:

the embedded first authentication information is a digital signature embedded as a watermark in a graphic on the analog form.

12. (original): Apparatus for checking the authenticity of an analog form, the analog form including embedded first authentication information and the apparatus comprising:

an analog form converter that receives the analog form and makes a digital representation of at least the first authentication information; and

a communications system,

the analog form converter employing the communications system to send the digital representation and a reference code to a verification system that employs the reference code and the first authentication information to determine whether the analog form is authentic and to receive a notification whether the analog form is authentic from the verification system.

13. (original): The apparatus set forth in claim 12 wherein:

the reference code is included in the digital representation.

14. (original): The apparatus set forth in claim 12 wherein:

the reference code is sent in association with but not as part of the digital representation.

15. (original): The apparatus set forth in claim 12 wherein:

the verification system employs the reference code to locate a key that is required to read the first authentication information.

16. (original): The apparatus set forth in claim 12 wherein:

the verification system employs the reference code to locate second authentication information and additionally uses the second authentication information to determine whether the digital representation is authentic.

17. (original): The apparatus set forth in claim 12 wherein:

the analog form converter analyzes the digital representation to determine whether the verification system can check the authenticity of the digital representation before sending the digital representation.

18. (original): The apparatus set forth in claim 12 wherein:

the analog form includes an image in which the first authentication information is embedded.

19. (original): The apparatus set forth in claim 18 wherein:

the analog form is a photo ID, the image is the photo ID's photo, and the reference code is an identification number for the photo ID.

20. (original): A method of determining authenticity of a digital representation of an object, the digital representation including embedded first authentication information and the method including the steps performed in a data processing system of:

receiving the digital representation and a reference code associated therewith in the system;

using the reference code to retrieve second authentication information associated with the reference code;

reading the embedded first authentication information; and

employing the read first authentication information and the second authentication information to determine authenticity of the digital representation.